

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing aliphatic alcohols having from 7 to 17 carbon atoms, the process comprising ~~atoms by means of~~ one or more reaction stages which each comprise ~~the steps~~

- a) ~~cobalt-catalyzed hydroformylation of~~ hydroformylating olefins having from 6 to 16 carbon atoms in the presence of a catalyst which comprises cobalt to obtain a hydroformylation mixture,
- b) ~~treatment of~~ treating the hydroformylation mixture with at least one gas which comprises oxygen ~~oxygen-containing gases~~ in the presence of acidic, aqueous cobalt (II) salt solutions to obtain a second mixture,
- c) ~~separation of~~ separating the second mixture from said treating b) into an aqueous phase comprising cobalt salts and an organic phase comprising the aliphatic aldehydes,
- e) extracting the organic phase from said separating c) ~~is extracted~~ with a ~~water-containing liquid~~ which comprises water
- d) ~~hydrogenation of the aldehyde-containing~~ hydrogenating the organic phase, phase which comprises the aliphatic aldehydes.

~~wherein~~

- e) ~~the organic phase from c) is extracted with a water-containing liquid.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~a further step~~

f) ~~separation of~~ separating all or part of the ~~organic phase~~ second mixture from said treating b) by distillation into a low-boiling fraction comprising unreacted olefins and ~~an aldehyde-containing~~ a bottom fraction comprising the aldehyde, wherein, in said extracting e), ~~step e)~~, the organic phase from said separating c) and/or the ~~aldehyde-containing~~ bottom fraction comprising the aldehyde from said separating f) is extracted with a ~~water-containing~~ liquid comprising water.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein said extracting e) ~~the extraction (step e)~~ is carried out using pure water.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein ~~the extraction~~ said extracting e) is carried out using an aqueous solution or a mixture of water with a mineral acid, a carboxylic acid and/or an organic solvent.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the pH of the ~~water-containing~~ liquid comprising water is less than or equal to 7.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the process comprises at least two reaction stages ~~are carried out~~ and all or part of the organic phase separated off in said separating step c) is passed to ~~step~~ said hydroformylating a) of the next reaction stage.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, ~~any of claims 2 to 6~~, wherein all or part of the low-boiling fraction separated off in ~~step~~ in said separating f) is returned to ~~step~~ said hydroformylating a).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, any of claims 2 to 6, wherein the process comprises at least two reaction stages ~~are carried out~~ and the low-boiling fraction separated off in ~~step~~ said separating f) is passed to ~~step~~ said hydroformylating a) of the next reaction stage.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, any of claims 2 to 6, wherein the process comprises at least two reaction stages ~~are carried out~~ and the low-boiling fraction separated off in ~~step~~ said separating f) is passed to ~~step~~ said hydroformylating a) of the next reaction stage and the bottom fractions separated off in ~~step~~ said separating f) of all reaction stages are hydrogenated in a joint ~~step~~ said hydrogenating d).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, any of claims 2 to 6, wherein the process comprises two reaction stages ~~are carried out~~ and the low boiling fraction ~~boilers~~ separated off in ~~step~~ said separating f) of the first reaction stage ~~are~~ is passed to ~~step~~ said hydroformylating a) of the second reaction stage and the organic phase from ~~step~~ said treating b) of both stages is passed to ~~step~~ said separating c) of the first reaction stage.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, any of claims 2 to 6, wherein the process comprises two reaction stages ~~are carried out~~ and the low ~~boilers~~ boiling fraction separated off in ~~step~~ said separating f) of the first reaction stage ~~are~~ is passed to ~~step~~ said hydroformylating a) of the second reaction stage and ~~the steps~~ said treating b), said separating c) and said hydrogenating d) are each carried out jointly for the two reaction stages.